AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

21.   (previously presented)   A method of load balancing connections between a plurality of servers and a plurality of clients, wherein a plurality of load balancers couple said plurality of servers and said plurality of clients, said method comprising:

in response to a receiving load balancer out of said plurality of load balancers receiving a communication from at least one of said plurality of clients, determining a primary load balancer and a backup load balancer for handling said communication;

storing an identity of said primary load balancer and said backup load balancer corresponding to said communication in each of said plurality of load balancers;

forwarding said communication to said primary load balancer for transmission to at least one of said plurality of servers; and

in response to determining said primary load balancer is not available, forwarding said communication to said determined backup load balancer for transmission to at least one of said plurality of servers.

22.   (previously presented)   The method of Claim 21, wherein said determining further includes:

calculating a plurality of scores, wherein each of said plurality of scores corresponds to a respective one of said plurality of load balancers;

ranking said plurality of scores from a highest score to a lowest score;

designating as said primary load balancer one of said plurality of load balancers corresponding to said highest score; and

designating as said backup load balancer one of said plurality of load balancers corresponding to a second highest score.

23.   (previously presented)   The method of Claim 21, further comprising:

in response to determining said receiving load balancer is said primary load balancer, transmitting said communication to at least one of said plurality of servers.

24.   (previously presented)   A system for load balancing connections between a plurality of servers and a plurality of clients, said system comprising:

a plurality of load balancers, including

a receiving load balancer, further including:

means for receiving a communication from at least one of said plurality of clients;

means for determining said primary load balancer and said backup load balancer for handling said communication;

means for storing an identity of said primary load balancer and said backup load balancer corresponding to said communication in each of said plurality of load balancers;

means for forwarding said communication to said primary load balancer for transmission to at least one of said plurality of servers; and

means for forwarding said communication to said determined backup load balancer for transmission to at least one of said plurality of servers, in response to determining said primary load balancer is not available.

25.   (previously presented)   The system of Claim 24, wherein said receiving load balancer further includes:

means for determining said primary load balancer and said backup load balancer for handling said communication by calculating a plurality of scores, wherein each of said plurality of scores corresponds to a respective one of said plurality of load balancers;

means for ranking said plurality of scores from a highest score to a lowest score;

means for designating as said primary load balancer one of said plurality of load balancers corresponding to said highest score; and

means for designating as said backup load balancer one of said plurality of load balancers corresponding to a second highest score.

26.   (previously presented)   The system of Claim 24, wherein said receiving load balancer further includes:

means for transmitting said communication to at least one of said plurality of servers, in response to determining said receiving load balancer is said primary load balancer.

27.   (previously presented)   A load balancer out of a plurality of load balancers for load balancing connections between a plurality of servers and a plurality of clients, said load balancer comprising:
means for receiving a communication from at least one of said plurality of clients;
means for determining a primary load balancer and a backup load balancer for handing said communication;
means for storing an identity of said primary load balancer and said backup load balancer corresponding to said communication in each of said plurality of load balancers;
means for forwarding said communication to said primary load balancer for transmission to at least one of said plurality of servers; and
means for forwarding said communication to said determined backup load balancer for transmission to at least one of said plurality of servers, in response to determining said primary load balancer is not available.

28.   (previously presented)   The load balancer of Claim 27, further comprising:
means for calculating a plurality of scores, wherein each of said plurality of scores corresponds to a respective one of said plurality of load balancers;
means for ranking said plurality of scores from a highest score to a lowest score;
means for designating as said primary load balancer one of said plurality of load balancers corresponding to said highest score; and
means for designating as said backup load balancer one of said plurality of load balancers corresponding to a second highest score.

29.   (previously presented)   The load balancer of Claim 27, further comprising:
means for transmitting said communication to at least one of said plurality of servers, in response to determining said load balancer is said primary load balancer.

30.   (previously presented)   A computer program product for load balancing connections between a plurality of servers and a plurality of clients, wherein a plurality of load balancers couple said plurality of servers and said plurality of clients, said computer program product comprising:

instructions, stored on computer-readable media, for determining a primary load balancer and a backup load balancer for handling said communication, in response to a receiving load balancer out of said plurality of load balancers receiving a communication from at least one of said plurality of clients;

instructions, stored on computer-readable media, for storing an identity of said primary load balancer and said backup load balancer corresponding to said communication in each of said plurality of load balancers;

instructions, stored on computer-readable media, for forwarding said communication to said primary load balancer for transmission to at least one of said plurality of servers; and

instructions, stored on computer-readable media, for forwarding said communication to said determined backup load balancer for transmission to at least one of said plurality of servers, in response to determining said primary load balancer is not available.

31.   (previously presented)   The computer program product of Claim 30, further comprising:

instructions, stored on computer-readable media, for calculating a plurality of scores, wherein each of said plurality of scores corresponds to a respective one of said plurality of load balancers;

instructions, stored on computer-readable media, for ranking said plurality of scores from a highest score to a lowest score;

instructions, stored on computer-readable media, for designating as said primary load balancer one of said plurality of load balancers corresponding to said highest score; and

instructions, stored on computer-readable media, for designating as said backup load balancer one of said plurality of load balancers corresponding to a second highest score.

32.   (previously presented)   The computer program product of Claim 30, further comprising:

    instructions, stored on computer-readable media, for transmitting said communication to at least one of said plurality of servers, in response to determining said receiving load balancer is said primary load balancer.